

MEMC 99-3590 (2702)
PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9 and 17 are amended, and claims 1, 5-9, and 13-17 are pending in the application. Entry of the amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and MPEP § 714.12 because the amendment does not raise new issues and because the amendment places the claims in condition for allowance.

Applicants' attorney thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview of August 27, 2003. Per the Examiner's suggestion, applicants submit the above amendment for entry. Although no agreement was reached in the interview, the Examiner did agree to enter and consider the above amendment to eliminate the term "relationship" in the claims. More specifically, claims 1, 9 and 17 are amended to clarify that the annular sealing member is in direct contact with the upper rim of the susceptor side wall and the outer surface of the crucible side wall. To the extent there was any ambiguity in the use of the phrase "close contact relationship", such ambiguity is now eliminated. Additionally, applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to delete the "adapted for" language and thereby further clarify the claims.

As discussed in the interview, Kalugin fails to show a sealing member in contact with the outer surface of the crucible side wall. Further, the purported combination of Kalugin and Toshiba '393 fails to show or suggest a sealing member in contact with the outer surface of the crucible side wall, and further fails to recognize the advantages of the claimed construction. In summary, the claims define over the cited prior art for the same reasons provided in the Remarks of Amendment C.

Applicants submit that this amendment does not change the scope of the claims and, the amendment is not required by the

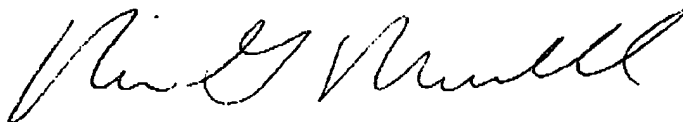
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statute or by the rules. The claim amendments are made to expedite allowance of the claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 5-9, and 13-17. The undersigned requests a telephone call from the Examiner if this would expedite allowance of the application.

Applicants do not believe that any fee is required by the timely submission of this response. In any case, the Commissioner is requested to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1345 in the name of Senniger, Powers, Leavitt & Roedel.

Respectfully submitted,



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